

Cape Mertzani

On the promontory of Mertzani, in the area of Maroudi, part of a large, as it appears, Early Helladic II settlement has been identified; the first mention of this settlement has been made by the Salaminian archaeologist and philologist Panayiotis Parthenis (see entry "Salamis", in *Eleftheroudakis Contemporary Encyclopaedia*, Vol. 11, Supplement, Athens, 738 (1126), in Greek). The promontory has now been largely covered with summer houses, apart from its tip.

In a narrow area (a rudimentary dirt road), between the stone fence of the last house and the rocks of the southern free part of the promontory, two separate foundations of house-walls in different axes can be recognized. The first one, in the East-West axis, is visible for 1.40 m., while the other, having a width of 0.65 m. in the North-South axis, can be followed for 4.30 m. They seem to belong, along with others which are barely visible on the ground, to a building complex datable, on the basis of the surrounding pottery, to the Early Helladic II period. To the same period may be attributed the remains of a structure on the east side of the extreme rocky part of the promontory. They consist of a wall-foundation in the East-West axis, with a length of 1.40 m. and a thickness of 0.60 m., which appears to form a corner.

From the first sector, sherds of Early Helladic II date have been collected, along with obsidians. The sherds come from fine and coarse pots, including several specimens of the Urfirnis ware. The recognized shapes include: sauceboats with a horizontal or vertical handle, bowls with simple or incurving lips, basins and other open vessels with vertical strap handles or horizontal lugs, as well as a vertical strap handle from an amphora. In the second sector, sherds of the same date are occasionally visible on the ground; sherds chiefly from open vessels have been collected.

Early Helladic II pottery occurs sporadically further to the north, as far as Ikaria Road, which lies 90 m. from the southernmost house.

The installations, mainly of nautical character, at Mertzani and at the promontory of Lykopoulo, west of the Bay of Peristeria, belong to the "Cape culture" of the Early Helladic II period, according to our general definition for the culture of the Early Helladic II period on the Greek Mainland.



Maroudi, Cape Mertzani. View of the cape with the Early Helladic II settlement, from north.
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